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## **CITY, 3CDC PLAN TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ONE BLOCK OF FIFTH STREET AS PART OF FOUNTAIN SQUARE REVITALIZATION**

*One block of Fifth Street between Vine and Walnut Street will be closed starting  
Monday, February 20 to complete Fountain Square garage roof repairs*

*Sidewalk access to all Fifth Street retailers will remain open during construction*

CINCINNATI, February 6, 2006 – The City of Cincinnati and The Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation (3CDC) today announced plans to temporarily close the one block section of Fifth Street between Vine and Walnut Streets for completion of repairs to the roof of the Fountain Square garage, which extends beneath Fifth Street. “We’ve completed demolition and excavation of the Fountain Square plaza and we’re moving forward with repairs to the interior and roof of the garage,” said 3CDC president Steve Leeper. “We appreciate the cooperation of downtown workers and visitors as we complete this important phase of the Fountain Square garage renovation as quickly as possible.

The street closure is scheduled to begin on Monday, February 20 at 9 a.m., and is projected to take at least 45 days to complete. Construction crews will work seven days per week to minimize the length of the block closure. Duration of the closing will depend on the extent of damage to the garage’s roof, which can be determined only after workers excavate Fifth Street to expose the top of the garage.

**Fifth Street sidewalk access and all retailer storefronts will remain open throughout construction:** The Fifth Street sidewalk in front of the Westin Hotel will remain open to pedestrians and will be clearly marked with signage identifying retailers. Cincinnati Police Officers and Downtown Cincinnati Inc. (DCI) Ambassadors will provide assistance and information to pedestrians, motorists, and retailers in the area. Police will focus on key intersections near the closed block of Fifth Street and will increase their presence during morning and evening rush hours. There will also be extra uniformed Metro supervisors stationed downtown to assist customers.

**Traffic management:** 3CDC is partnering with the City, DCI, the Cincinnati Police Department, and Fifth Street business partners to manage the temporary block closure. A map showing the City-recommended detour around the closed block of Fifth Street is available for download from the websites of the City of Cincinnati at [www.cincinnati-oh.gov](http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov), 3CDC at [www.3cdc.org](http://www.3cdc.org), and DCI at [www.downtowncincinnati.com](http://www.downtowncincinnati.com). The City’s Traffic Division will also

partner with the Artimis traffic monitoring service to post information and updates about downtown traffic on the electronic displays above I-75 North and South, on the system's 511 telephone information line and on the Artimis website at [www.artimis.org/traffic.php](http://www.artimis.org/traffic.php) where visitors can click on the link labeled "Downtown Cincinnati".

"Based on the City's experience with projects like Fort Washington Way and the Cinergy Center construction, we have a traffic management plan in place to help people navigate downtown," said the City's Traffic Engineer Steve Bailey. "We're confident that motorists will work with the temporary detours and the police officers stationed at key intersections as they have in the past to get where they're going."

**Transit use encouraged:** Commuters are encouraged to ride Metro or TANK during the Fifth Street closing. According to Metro, every full bus will remove almost 50 cars from downtown streets. "More than 25% of downtown workers ride transit now and we strongly encourage the use of Metro and TANK during this temporary one-block street closure, said Bailey."

Some Metro and TANK routes will be affected and some bus stops temporarily relocated. Information about these changes is available from:

- Metro (513) 621-4455 or [www.sorta.com](http://www.sorta.com)
- TANK (859) 331-TANK or [www.tankbus.org](http://www.tankbus.org)

To encourage downtown commuters to ride, Metro will offer a 10 percent discount on monthly bus passes and tokens for the month of March. Metro's March passes go on sale beginning February 15 and tokens will be discounted beginning February 27. Monthly passes are available at the BusStop sales office, Mercantile Building arcade (near Walgreens, 120 E. Fourth Street downtown), at community sales outlets, and by mail order. Tokens can be purchased at the BusStop sales office only; limit 40 per customer.

Metro also has added a service called Commuter Alerts that will send time-sensitive detour alerts via text messaging to cell phones/PDAs or e-mail. Metro customers can register free at [www.sorta.com](http://www.sorta.com).

### ***Available Parking Downtown***

There are more than more than 4,000 convenient and affordable parking spaces within a 1.5 block radius of Fountain Square. (Fountain Square garage is closed as part of the renovation). A detailed downtown parking map is available at [www.downtowncincinnati.com](http://www.downtowncincinnati.com).

**Keeping informed:** Traffic updates and information will be available to the public from several sources:

#### Website:

City of Cincinnati at [www.cincinnati-oh.gov](http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov)

3CDC at [www.3cdc.org](http://www.3cdc.org)

DCI at [www.downtowncincinnati.com](http://www.downtowncincinnati.com)

Artimis at [www.artimis.org/traffic.php](http://www.artimis.org/traffic.php)

#### Road Signs:

Artimis electronic highway displays above I-75 North and South

Telephone:

Artimis 511 information line

Print materials:

Metro brochure with bus route and stop changes for Fifth Street block closure

- Brochures will be available by mail, on Metro's website at [www.sorta.com](http://www.sorta.com), at the BusStop sales office in Mercantile Building arcade, from Metro supervisors on the street at the current bus stops the week of February 13, and at locations where bus schedules are available (libraries, public buildings, etc.)

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